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1. (Amended) A neutron generator, comprising:

- a) an electron bombardment ion source having a gas-fillable ionization chamber, an ion exit slit and focusing apertures each being equal to or greater than 3 mm, said ion source having means for generating an electron beam which creates ions by collision with a gas in said ionization chamber;
- b) a high voltage acceleration stage for accelerating said ions towards a target; and
- c) an occluded reaction target which, upon impact by said ions, produces neutrons.

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REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claims 1-10 is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, it should be noted that by this Amendment, claim 1 has been rewritten to better highlight the novel features of the invention and to better distinguish the same over the art of record. More particularly, claim 1 has been amended to define an electronic bombardment ion source having a gas fillable ionization chamber, an ion exit slit, and focusing apertures each being equal to or greater than 3 mm for generating an electron beam which creates ions by collision with a gas in said